

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (OREP CONGRESSMAN BONKER)

SUBJECT: CODEL BONKER: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT

REF CAIRO 6760

1. CONGRESSMAN BONKER, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND EMB CONTROL OFFICER MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA, NOON, JULY 8. SADAT BEGAN CONVERSATION BY PRAISING EFFORTS OF SECRETARY IN GETTING PEACE PROCESS STARTED. HE NOTED THAT EGYPTIANS HAD DEALT WITH OTHER AMERICAN SECRETARIES IN PAST BUT IN SECRETARY EGYPTIANS FELT THEY HAD FOUND SOMEONE WHO REALLY HELPING THEM.

2. REP BONKER OBSERVED HE NOT SURE IF CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS REGARDING RESTRICTION OF AID TO ISRAEL DURING CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS; BUT IT CLEAR NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEEDED. BONKER ASKED SADAT WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS FOR SINAI NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH PRES FORD IN SALZBURG. HE OBSERVED HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH PRES FORD. HE HAD TOLD PRES FORD HE IS NOT ASKING US TO GIVE UP SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, THAT WE SHOULD GIVE ISRAEL EVERYTHING IT NEEDS FOR SELF DEFENSE BUT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT TAKE EGYPTIAN LAND. SADAT EXPLAINED MARCH MISSION WAS UNDERTAKEN TO DEFUSE DANGEROUS SITUATION, ESPECIALLY IN SYRIA. SADAT TOLD BONKER THAT SOVIET UNION IS VERY MUCH BEHIND SCENES IN SYRIA. SOVIETS ALWAYS WANT TO HAVE INFLUENCE. IF THERE NO AGREEMENT ARABS WILL BE FORCED ASK SOVIETS FOR HELP; IF THERE IS FURTHER AGREEMENT THEN NO ONE WILL ASK SOVIETS FOR ANYTHING.

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PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IS TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION ON
DIDN'T AGREE TO RELIEVE TENSION. IF THEY HAD AGREED IN MARCH, HE SAID,

THEY STILL WOULD HAVE OCCUPIED 180 KM OF EGYPTIAN LAND.

3. BONKER RESPONDED THAT HE GOT IMPRESSION IN ISRAEL THAT ISRAELIS
ARE INTERESTED IN PASSES SOLELY FOR STRATEGIC VALUE. SADAT REPLIED
THAT THE PASSES ARE ON "MY LAND", BEHIND THEM ARE ANOTHER 180 KM
OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. ISRAEL WANTS POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM
EGYPT. SADAT SAID, "I CANNOT GIVE NON-BELLIGERENCY FOR THAT".
EGYPT WANTS SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT TO PREVENT WAR
IN AREA AND ENGENDER GOOD AMOSPHERE FOR GENEVA. SADAT SAID THAT
ISRAEL FEARS PEACE. ISRAEL SEEKS \$2.5 BILLION BECAUSE SHE IS
PROTECTING US INTERESTS AGAINST PRESENCE OF SOVIET UNION, AND
BECAUSE SHE IS ONLY DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IF WE REACH
PEACE, ISRAEL WILL NOT HAVE TO PROTECT US INTERESTS BECAUSE THERE
WILL BE THE ARABS TO DO THAT. ISRAEL WILL NOT GET ANY MORE AID AND
THIS IS WHY SHE FEARS PEACE. SADAT SAID HE HAD ANNOUNCED ON FEB
4, 1971 THAT HE WAS READY FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL. HE REFERRED TO
ROGERS PLAN AND SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD TOLD ROGERS THAT IF ANY ARAB
LEADER SAID THAT, THEN THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE WILLING TO LAY THEIR
CARDS ON THE TABLE. BUT WHEN SADAT SAID IT, ISRAELIS UNDERMINED
ROGERS SO THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO KEEP THEIR PROMISE.

4. BONKER ASKED IF AGREEMENT IN THE SINAI OBTAINED, WHAT ABOUT
MOVEMENT ON THE OTHER BORDERS. SADAT SAID "WE MUST EASE TENSION
FIRST AND THEN DEAL WITH THE OTHER BORDERS." GUARANTEES ARE
ACCEPTABLE, BUT EGYPT SHOULD ALSO GET GUARANTEES. SADAT REITERATED
THAT ISRAELIS WANT TO CONTINUE TO HOLD ARAB LAND. BONKER REPEATED
IMPRESSION THEY ONLY CONCERNED RE STRATEGIC VALUE. SADAT REPLIED
THAT THE GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES IN THE DELTA MAKE TERRITORY OF
LITTLE STRATEGIC VALUE.

5. BONKER ASKED ABOUT EGYPT'S POSITION IN EVENT OF AN ISRAELI/SYRIAN
WAR. SADAT REPEATED THAT IF SYRIA ATTACKED ISRAEL, EGYPT WILL NOT
HELP; BUT IF ISRAEL ATTACKS SYRIA, EGYPT WILL BE FORCED TO HELP. HE
REMINDED BONKER THAT EGYPT CAN WORK ALONE, BUT SYRIA CANNOT WORK
ALONE. SDAT TOLD BONKER THAT HE AGREES TO MONITORING SYSTEMS IN
PASSES AS LONG AS HE HAS CAPABILITY TOO. STATIONS SHOULD BE MANNED
BY US AS A WITNESS.

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6. BONKER ASKED ABOUT ISRAELI SHIPS PASSING THROUGH THE CANAL.
SADAT SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE 1888 CONVENTION, SHIPS OF A NATION
AT WAR WITH EGYPT MAY NOT USE THE CANAL. HOWEVER, EGYPT PREPARED
TO ALLOW ISRAELI CARGO TO PASS, DEPENDING ON CARGO, I.E. NON-
STRATEGIC CARGOES.

7. SADAT THEN RELATED HE HAD GRANTED THE SOVIETS MEDITERRANEAN
FACILITIES BUT NEVER BASES. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT SENT

REPLACEMENT ARMS FOR THE 1973 WAR AND THEY HAVE GIVEN NO GRACE PERIOD FOR ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS AS THEY HAVE GIVEN TO SYRIA. BONKER ASKED WHY. SADAT SAID QUOTE BECAUSE I AM ACTING INDEPENDENTLY. THE CAUSE OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM IS THAT I DON'T TAKE THEIR ORDERS. UNQUOTE. BONKER OBSERVED THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS TOLD CONGRESS THAT WE MUST GIVE AID TO INFLUENCE POLICIES BUT THAT SADAT'S STATEMENT DILLUTES THAT ARGUEMENT. SADAT REPLIED THAT HE WANTS TO BE INDEPENDENT; NEIGHER SOVIETS NOR US CAN INFLUENCE HIM. SADAT CONTINUED THAT HE NEEDS PEACE FOR HIS COUNTRY, THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE CONFLICT CANNOT BE SOLVED MILITARILY BY EITHER SIDE.

8. BONKER ASKED WHAT IF THERE WERE A SETTLEMENT BASED ON 1967 BORDERS, WOULD SADAT AGREE TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTER-COURSE. SADAT SAID THAT AFTER 27 YEARS, THAT IS AN ACHIEVEMENT WHICH MUST BE LEFT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. OUR ACHIEVEMENT WILL BE THE END OF THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY, HE SAID.

9. BONKER ASKED IF THE STATEMENT BY 76 SENATORS HAD AROUSED ANY QUESTIONS. SADAT SAID THAT PREVIOUSLY US STAND WAS BASED UPON FACT THAT EGYPT IS UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE AND THAT ISRAEL IS SAFEGUARDING AMERICA'S INTEREST. BUT NOW ARABS HAVE PROVED TO BE FRIENDS. WE PROTECTED YOUR OIL INTERESTS, SADAT TOLD BONKER, WHEN AFTER THE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT EGYPT PROMISED TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AND DID. EGYPT IS THE LEADER OF THE ARAB WORLD. WHERE IS LOGIC THAT ISRAEL IS PROTECTING US INTERESTS;? SADAT ASKED. SADAT REPEATED THAT HE IS NOT ASKING FOR END TO THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, ALL HE WANTS IS AN OBJECTIVE READING WHERE AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE PUT FIRST. BONKER SAID HE THOUGHT CONGRESS IS STILL IN THE 1972 STAGE OF THINKING I.E. THAT ISRAEL IS PROTECTING OUR INTEREST.

SADAT URGED CONGRESSMAN TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HAPPENED IN MARCH TO SEE WHAT WAS EGYPT'S POSITION, AND WHAT WAS ISRAEL'S. BONKER SAID THAT CONGRESS LOOKS UPON TERRITORY WHICH ISRAEL HOLDS AS REPRESENTING SECURITY AND THEREFORE MEMBERS BELIEVE EGYPT SHOULD NOT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE INTANGIBLE CONCESSIONS TO GET IT BACK.

10. SADAT OBSERVED THAT US HAS SUFFERED FROM DEALING WITH WEAK GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I AM YOUR STRONG FRIEND, HE DECLARED, AND HE URGED BONKER TO ASK SECRETARY ABOUT EGYPT'S ROLE IN LIFTING THE 1973 EMBARGO. SADAT UNDERLINED HE HAS PROVED HIMSELF AS A FRIEND IN PAST YEAR - NOW HE WANTS PROOF OF FRIENDSHIP FROM US.
EILTS

EGYPTIAN FRONT AND THEN TURN TO LYRIA. SADAT ASKED BONKER WHY ISRAEL

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